

Great Bay Siltation Commission Meeting

NHDES Pease Field Office, Portsmouth, NH
November 19, 2007, 2:00 PM

Members: Rep. Judith Spang, Commission Chair, Durham
Rep. Dennis Abbott, Newmarket
Cynthia Copeland, Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program
Ellen Griffin Saas, Great Bay Marine, Inc.
Doug Grout, NH Fish & Game Department
Jennifer Hunter, NH Estuaries Project
Ray Konisky, The Nature Conservancy
Justin Richardson, Newington Conservation Commission
Larry Ward, University of New Hampshire
Alison Watts, Newfields Conservation Commission
Peter Whelan, NH Coastal Conservation Association

Other Attendees: David Cedarholm, Town of Durham
David Funk, Great Bay Stewards
Christian Williams, NH Coastal Program

Summary:

Dr. Robert Roseen, Director of the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center, gave a presentation entitled “Sediments and Stormwater Runoff in the Great Bay, NH.” Dr. Roseen’s presentation focused on the limitations of conventional stormwater management and solutions to these limitations. Inadequate pollutant removal, inadequate cooling, and inadequate stream channel protection were identified as the primary limitations of conventional stormwater management practices, while low impact development strategies involving storm volume reduction through infiltration and water quality treatment by filtration were identified as practicable solutions to these limitations. Question and answer followed.

Chairperson Spang then provided workplans to each of the two subcommittees established at the October 22nd meeting. The workplans are intended to guide the discussion of each subcommittee over the next six months. The “Causes of Sedimentation” subcommittee workplan tasks the subcommittee with itemizing the causes of sedimentation in the Great Bay estuary, developing a study matrix which would, in part, rank each cause in order of importance, and establishing a working hypothesis for each identified cause of sedimentation. The “Effects of Sedimentation” subcommittee workplan tasks the subcommittee with itemizing the impacts of sedimentation, including ecosystem, commercial, recreational, and social impacts, developing a study matrix which would, in part, rank each impact in order of importance, and establishing a working hypothesis for each identified impact.

Members then divided into the two subcommittees to review the workplans. Members agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled in early-to-mid December. Chairperson Spang indicated that Commission members would be notified in the near future of the exact meeting date, time and location.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.